DEWAN'S REPLY; Mr. Abdur Rahiman Sahib. The question of metalling the Shankhumukham road will be considered by the Government.

As regards the improvement of the drainage system in Trivandrum it is likely that very soon an investigation will be conducted. But to say that the construction and maintenance of a proper drainage system is the duty of the Government in a way to make it appear that it is not the duty of the Municipality, is wrong. It is the duty of the Municipality to see to the drainage and sanitation of the town. You say that Municipal funds do not admit of this work being taken up by the Municipal Council. Municipal funds are elastic and the extended use of the funds should always be proportionate to the needs of the country. As the needs of the population increase, Municipal funds could also be proportionately increased and I think there are ways and means which the Municipality can take advantage of to increase its funds.

93. Needs of the Trivandrum Municipality.

MR. A. S. VEERABAHU PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) said that the representatives of the Trivandrum Municipal Council had urged upon the Government the necessity of enacting a separate Municipal Regulation for the Trivandrum town. As the provisions of the existing Regulation were inelastic in character, the Council could not plan and carry out such measures of reform as the growing needs of the town required. Government were convinced of the necessity of such a Regulation inasmuch as they announced in 1105 that instructions had been issued to the Law officers to do the needful. But the matter rested there. In view of the importance and urgeney of the matter, a special officer should be appointed for the work and the Regulation enacted at an early date. The Madras Municipal Act might with advantage be adopted as a model.

The introduction of the Town Planning Regulation was also of great importance. In view of the rapid growth of the town and the congestion observed in several places, extension of the town on scientific and up-to-date principles had become a matter of necessity. A Bill for the purpose should be drafted and introduced in the Council.

It was deplorable that the premier municipality in the State had no decent building to be used as an office and for holding meetings. The Municipality applied some time age for a loan from the Government. Orders should be passed soon sanctioning the loan.

The drains in the town were under the control of the Public Works Department and the Municipality. The dual control was not calculated to improve the drainage system. Until the Municipality was given full control over drains, their condition could not be improved. The Municipality should be entrusted with the construction and maintenance of drains as also the allotments sanctioned therefor.

The public tanks in the town which were under the control of the P. W., Maramath and Devaswom Departments should be transferred to the Municipality.

A suitable drainage scheme should be devised for the Trivandrum town and the works connected therewith should be completed before the introduction of pipe-water supply. It was gratifying to note that Mr. Westerdale, an expert on drainage, had formulated proposals for investigating a drainage scheme for the town.

In view of the increase in the volume of motor traffic, the widening of the roads by straightening the sharp bends in the several junctions of the Chalai bazaar and Kochar roads, two of the most important roads in the town, had become an indispensable necessity. The attention of the P. W. D. authorities should be drawn to the matter.

The several by-roads in the town were kept in an unsatisfactory condition. The authorities who were in charge of them did not care to attend to their proper upkeep and maintenance. The roads were full of ruts and particularly during the rainy season they became unfit for traffic. The annual repair of the roads consisted mainly of spreading some gravel and river sand, the ramming process being gone through by the feet of the pedestrians, the hoofs of the horses or bullocks or the wheels of motor vehicles. The by-roads in the Puthenchanthai B. Ward were worse than the rural roads in British India. The drains on either side were above the road level and during the rainy season the roads themselve served the purpose of drains. The representations made by the Municicipal Council on the subject had no effect. The necessary orders should be issued to the department forthwith.

Nature provided the State with a fine sea-coast, the usefulness of which could be enhanced by the opening of a straight road from Valiathurai to Shankhumukham. The road would facilitate the growth of the town in the direction of the beach.

As regards the opening of a dispensary at Karamanai, the Government had passed orders to the effect that no dispensary was necessary there in view of the existence of hospitals at the Fort and Thycaud and the Palace dispensary at Poojapurai. Those two hospitals and the dispensary were more than a mile away from Karamanai and the inhabitants of Karamanai, especially the poorer classes, experienced serious inconvenience for want of a medical institution in their locality. The matter should therefore be re-opened and orders passed for opening a dispensary there, if not permanently, at least experimentally for one year. Similarly, another dispensary might be opened at Sasthamangalam.

It was absolutely necessary to provide the town with a sufficient number of public latrines. The few latrines that were in existence were insufficient to meet the needs; and the necessity for more latrines would become more keenly felt with the opening of the Central Railway Station at Tampanoor. Thousands of people resorted to the town every day and it was a criminal neglect of public conveniences that they were not provided with sufficient number of latrines at convenient places to answer the calls of nature. A large number of persons were every day prosecuted for committing nuisance. It was unjust to punish them

as they could not help committing the offence with which they were charged. In fairness to such persons and to improve the health and sanitation of the town, the construction of not less than one hundred public latrines should be immediately undertaken. The selection of sites for latrines was very often accompanied by serious protests from the people. A committee consisting of the Dewan Peishkar, the Executive Engineer, the Sanitary Commissioner and the Municipal President should be appointed to select sites in consultation with at least half a dozen people of the locality and the members of the Municipal Council for the respective wards.

The disqualification placed on women to become members of the Municipal Councils should be removed. The discrimination against women should not continue in view of the circumstance that women had made great strides in education in recent years.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Veerabahu Pillai. The question of amending the Municipal Regulation and the desirability of having a Town Planning Act are under consideration of Government. It is expected that a Bill amending the Municipal Regulation will be introduced very soon. In that Bill will certainly be one or two sections in regard to the removal of sex disqualification. This disqualification was brought in by the Regulation itself and can therefore be removed only by introducing another Bill in the Legislative Council amending the Regulation.

The drainage system, it is expected, will be worked out by the Chief Engineer. When that is done and when the additional powers which you say are necessary for the Municipality to enable them to discharge their responsibility more effectively, are conferred upon them, drainage system, roads and tanks are likely to be handed over to the Municipality for maintenance and control.

As regards public latrines, that again is a matter in which the Municipality seems to have become recently aware of its responsibilities and duties. I understand that the Municipality has called for a list of sites where latrines are required and I shall ask the President to take a note of your suggestion that, before the sites are finally fixed, he should consult the Dewan Peishkar, the Executive Engineer, the Sanitary Commissioner, the ward member and a few important people of the neighbourhood.

All the other subjects that you represented will be considered.

94. Needs of the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. S. JANARDANAN NAIR (*Nedumangad taluk*) said that numerous as were the grievances of the people of the Nedumangad taluk, most of them could be redressed immediately without any considerable expenditure.

The file of the Munsiff-Magistrates' Court at Nedumangad was very heavy, the total number of cases pending on the 16th Kumbhom 1106 being 1,750. No judicial officer, however efficient, could cope